

# Soldiers



## Korea:

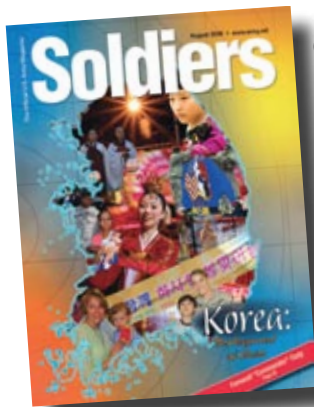
*The Assignment of Choice*



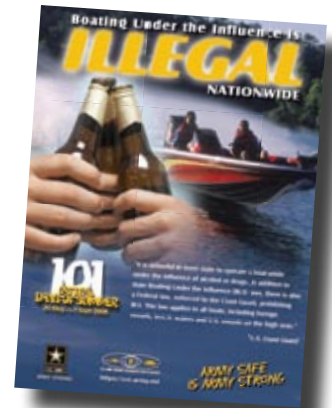
# CONTENTS

SOLDIERS | AUGUST 2008 | VOLUME 63, NO. 8





**Cover Image**  
Montage by Peggy Frierson



**Safety Poster**  
Inside Back Cover

## Features



**Living the Korean Culture** 4  
The beauty, charm and excitement of South Korea have made the Asian nation one of the most sought-after assignments in the Army.



**Farewell to Gen. Cody** 28  
Retiring Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody shares his thoughts on his career, the state of the Army and what it takes to be a leader.

## Spotlight on Korea

**Transformation in Korea** 10  
The continuing transformation of the Army's role on the peninsula will help South Korea to more effectively deal with the threat from the North.

**Full-Spectrum Training** 12  
Soldiers assigned to Korea get to participate in some of the most realistic and challenging real-world training the Army has to offer.

**Bringing More Families to Korea** 20  
To improve morale and aid family cohesion, the Army is seeking to greatly increase the number of command-sponsored family members.

**The Korean Housing Boom** 22  
The Army is pouring money and effort into building modern and comfortable housing for Korea-based Soldiers and command-sponsored families.

**Life on the DMZ** 24  
U.S. Soldiers still make up about 10 percent of the United Nations Command Security Battalion that guards the DMZ's Joint Security Area.

**The Frontline Network** 26  
Made up of more than 120 servicemembers and civilians, the American Forces Network-Korea offers news and entertainment via radio and TV.

## Departments

Mail Call..... 3  
Army News..... 18

On Point..... 16  
Focus on People..... 32





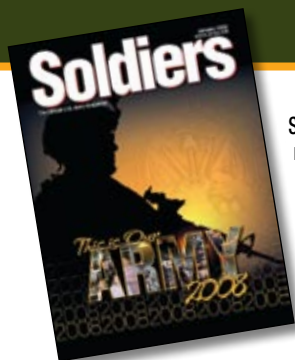
# SOLDIERS MEDIA CENTER



## We Want Your Story

The Army is our nation's greatest resource in defense of our homeland. Every day Soldiers and civilians perform acts of valor. The heroic acts performed on the battlefield and the acts of kindness from humanitarian efforts demonstrate the strength of the Army. We want to tell your story. To find out how the Soldiers Media Center can tell your story, contact your unit public affairs officer or send your submissions via e-mail to

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# MAILCALL

Letters from the Field

## Marriage in the Military

I READ with interest the marriage- and family related stories in the June issue. While I found them interesting, I have to wonder whether it's appropriate to deal at such length with topics that are so far removed from what the Army is supposed to be about — namely, closing with and destroying the nation's enemies.

While I understand that you have to give lip service to whatever "touchy-feely" topic happens to be in vogue at the moment, I really do think you'd better serve your readers by sticking to stories that deal with the Army's primary task — keeping this country safe.

Name withheld by request  
via e-mail

*THE Army believes that strong families and solid marriages serve the nation and bolster its defenses by ensuring that Soldiers have the emotional foundations necessary to face the operational hardships they encounter. The Army emphasizes the importance of strong and secure family relationships precisely because such relationships strengthen the values, resolve and sense of purpose that make Soldiers effective, whether in garrison or in combat. Far from paying "lip service" to the importance of strong families and healthy relationships, we here at Soldiers magazine believe in, and are happy to inform our readers about, the programs that make Army families stronger.*

WHILE I enjoyed the June "Marriage in the Military" issue, I was disappointed that all of the stories were of military men marrying civilian women.

In my small command alone, four military women (including me) are marrying civilian men. If at all possible, the next time you write about marriage in the military, you might want to present a broader picture.

Staff Sgt. LaTonya Y. Butler  
via e-mail

AS an Army wife for almost 20 years, I have to tell you that I thought your June issue provides a lot of good information about the resources available to military spouses and families.

Many people forget that while Soldiers are deployed their spouses and families have to go on with day-to-day life, which can be extremely challenging even under the best conditions. If the family isn't strong before the Soldier deploys, or if the relationship between the Soldier and spouse is shaky, it can spell disaster both for the mission and the family.

Thanks for a great issue, and please keep telling "family stories" along with the "Soldier stories."

Alena McEvoy  
via e-mail

## Firefighters

I ENJOYED the June article about Army Reserve firefighters, but as the unit administrator for the 683rd Engineer Platoon (Firefighter) in Pascagoula, Miss. [we also have the 379th and 493rd Engr. Detachments (FF)] I just wanted to point out to your readers that there are more Reserve firefighters than just those

mentioned in the article.

Having said that, we all enjoyed the close-up look at what Reserve firefighters do for the Army.

Veronica Y. Philips  
via e-mail

## The Final Salute

THE May issue was an emotionally charged one. Being a military journalist in Iraq I know how hard it is to write about "fallen warriors" and their memorial observances.

I thought the articles you ran about casualty-notification procedures and memorial ceremonies were very well written. We must always try to give fallen Soldiers the respect and honor that they deserve, to make sure they are not forgotten.

Sgt. Daniel D. Blottenberger  
via e-mail

*The Soldiers staff would like to thank Gil High for his more than 36 years of outstanding service to the Army, the magazine and the nation. Gil recently retired from federal service, and we wish him all the best as he moves on to explore new horizons.*

## Soldiers Values Your Opinion

To comment, keep your remarks to under 150 words, include your name, rank and address, and send them to:

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assignmentdesk@smc.army.mil

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# Living the **Korean Culture**

Story by Elizabeth M. Lorge





Members of the Little Angels Dancers perform a traditional Korean folk dance. Established in 1962 to introduce Korean culture to the world through song and dance, the Little Angels have a performing arts center in Seoul.

Buddhist monks march through downtown Seoul during a celebration for Buddha's birthday.

**K**OREA is a land of contrasts. Ancient temples and palaces nestle into hillsides as high-rise apartment buildings spring up everywhere. It is one of the most wired, tech-savvy nations in the world, but is also filled with traditional markets and rice paddies. A long flight from the U.S., it requires only short hops to China, Japan, Thailand and other places in Asia.

"Korea is a beautiful country," said Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, commander of 8th U.S. Army. "The people are so kind and courteous. It's just a wonderful country ... it's a hard-work tour, but it's not a hardship



"Korea is a beautiful country. The people are so kind and courteous. It's a great place to be assigned."

Seoul's nightlife is just one of the many facets of modern Korean culture.



C. Todd Lopez



Spc. Daniel Love





Seoul's open-air Namdaemun market is popular with both residents and visitors.

tour. It's a great place to be assigned. We seek to make this the dream assignment for Soldiers."

The days when Soldiers complained of dirt roads and few facilities are long gone. Today it is, many Soldiers say, a wonderful place to spend a year, or two or three. If Soldiers come unaccompanied, the tour length is one year, and if they receive command-sponsored tours, it's two years. Soldiers can also receive assignment-incentive pay for extending and remaining a maximum of three years.

"I requested it," said mechanic Spc. Lonnie Fletcher, stationed at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul. "I heard it was the assignment of choice. Why not go to a different country? I'm in the Army, so I might as well go somewhere I've never been before."

He and his wife, Sgt. Delaina Lynn Fletcher, said they enjoy the

local culture in Seoul and urge Soldiers to spend time off post. Local shopping districts like Itaewon and the Namdaemun market seem to be particular favorites of Soldiers, as is traditional Korean barbecue, which diners grill right at the table.

"I love it here. I could walk around for hours. Sometimes we catch the bus and go eat and shop and walk around. You see people, meet people," said Pfc. Kelly Mitchell, a human-resources specialist at Yongsan.

Seoul has extensive subway, train and bus systems, with stops stretching about an hour north and south, convenient to camps Casey and Humphreys. Free military buses also connect outlying U.S. installations with Yongsan, so getting around is fairly easy, Soldiers said, even though enlisted Soldiers aren't allowed to have cars.

A street vendor in the Namdaemun market makes a traditional Korean pastry. Korea offers visitors a wealth of new tastes, aromas and sights.



C. Todd Lopez (both pages)



Morale, welfare and recreation offices; the United Service Organization; and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offer subsidized tours of local attractions, the Demilitarized Zone, cities like Beijing and Tokyo, Jeju Island and the beach to help Soldiers take advantage of living and working in another country.

"We want Soldiers to have a wonderful time while they are here," said Fil. "Learning about Korean culture. Developing relationships with our Korean neighbors. Getting out and exploring all the beauty, scenery and culture of Korea. Exploring the Orient. We want to create every single opportunity for our Soldiers to do that."

The post schools teach service-members' children about Korea's language and the culture, and MWR offers Hangul-language classes to Soldiers as well; some Soldiers even study it on their own. Others, like Pfc. Jose Burgos, volunteered for duty in Korea to explore a specific aspect of the culture.

He has a black belt in tae kwon do, a Korean martial art, and wanted to study it with Korean teachers. He trains at the Yongsan MWR center three days a week, and twice a week off post. He said he found that tae kwon do is far different in Korea than in America — far more philosophical and important to overall physical fitness.



"We want Soldiers to have a wonderful time while they are here. Learning about Korean culture. Developing relationships with our Korean neighbors. Getting out and exploring ..."

Off-duty Soldiers enjoy traditional Korean barbeque outside Yongsan Garrison in downtown Seoul.



Because so many Soldiers are new to the Army and foreign assignments, the 8th U.S. Army and 2nd Infantry Division ensure Soldiers and families undergo cultural-awareness training as part of their initial orientation. Soldiers are also encouraged to pair up with Korean Augmentees to the United States Army. KATUSAs are fulfilling their compulsory service to South Korea's army, but are serving in American units. They eat, live and train with their U.S. counterparts.

KATUSAs, some of whom have lived or studied in the United States, also show American Soldiers the ropes: explaining menus, the extensive subway system and often acting as unofficial tour guides. Soldiers and KATUSAs also learn about each other's languages and beliefs.

"The first thing I ask them is what they think will happen when North and South Korea are unified again, what their reaction will be? They hope they unify because some of their ancestors are still in North Korea.



David McNally

Developing an appreciation of traditional Korean culture — such as this ceremonial dance — helps American servicemembers make more of their time on the peninsula.

That's pretty much the first thing they tell me," said Spc. Christopher Perez Nieves, whose roommate at Yongsan is a KATUSA.

He added that he was horrified when he first learned about his assignment because he had heard so

many bad things about Korea, but that he has been proved wrong.

"It is a great assignment," Nieves, a systems analyst, said. "When I first got here, people were great to me — especially the Koreans. The way they live is magnificent."

Korean elementary school children pose with broadcaster Sgt. Joy Kroemer of American Forces Network-Korea during a children's day tour at Yongsan. The garrison frequently welcomes Korean nationals on post as part of the Good Neighbor program.



Pfc. Lee Min-hw





Soldiers and KATUSAs look on as Spc. Jose Baldwin of the 2nd Infantry Division tae kwon do team kicks an apple off a knife while blindfolded. Sgt. James Simmons holds the knife in one hand and a bell in the other — the sound of the bell directs Baldwin toward his target.

All Soldiers and family members can expect to work and live with Koreans even if they never leave the installation. Leaders therefore stress that everyone, from private to general to spouse, is an ambassador for the United States and can have an impact on the Army's relationship with the Korean people.

To help build continuing goodwill and shared understanding between American Soldiers and citizens in local communities, each installation and command in Korea runs a "good neighbor" program. It has three pillars: community relations, military-to-military operations and Korean cultural awareness.

"Since the end of the Korean War, we have developed a relationship that stretches across generations," said Lt. Col. Glenn Tolle, director of the 2nd Inf. Div.'s Good-Neighbor Program at Camp Red Cloud. "We have older individuals who remember the contributions of the United States, and then we have the younger generation. Through the program, we show them that the United States is a partner in the peace of Korea. The program also gives our families a chance to participate in the local community."

Commanders at different levels have advisory groups of Koreans, units partner with units from the Ko-

rean army, and Soldiers volunteer in orphanages and teach English in local schools. Units might also partner with a local university or high school to sponsor such programs as hiking trips or basketball tournaments for the Soldiers and students. Local Korean communities often reciprocate by hosting concerts or other events for the Soldiers.

"All a Soldier has to do is participate once in an English-teaching program in a local elementary school," Tolle said. "The children become attached to the Soldiers, and there is a bond that the Soldiers recognize with the local community, and they want to participate. Once they get their feet in the door ... they find themselves part of something that's truly bigger than themselves. They have a sense of satisfaction in that they have contributed to the local U.S. and ROK relationship, and they make good friends."

"This is an exciting time to serve on the Korean peninsula," said Fil. "It is a very rewarding tour, in a place that is wonderfully accommodating to Americans. They want us here. It is a real mission and a very high quality of life." **sm**

Elizabeth M. Lorge works for the Army News Service in Arlington, Va.



## Getting Soldiers Out of the Barracks With BOSS

WITH the majority of American Soldiers in Korea either single or unaccompanied, the Army depends not only on morale, welfare and recreation activities, but also on a program called Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers to get them out of their barracks and away from their video games, and also away from excessive or underage drinking or clubbing, according to outgoing Camp Red Cloud BOSS coordinator Staff Sgt. Lucia Gonzalez.

Chaired mostly by young enlisted Soldiers, BOSS has three pillars: recreation, community service and well-being. Its members sponsor activities from karaoke nights to barbecues to beach weekends to trips around Korea. Soldiers involved in BOSS help communities pick up trash, visit orphanages and even helped clean up the oil spill at Taean in January 2008.

"When I first got here," Gonzalez said, "there weren't many things to do with our free time. So when I got involved, I wanted to have a lot of events and tours, a lot more things for the Soldiers to go out and do instead of just going out to a club."

Representatives from the units in a command meet with the BOSS committee biweekly to talk about what Soldiers want, and BOSS often holds fundraisers so the activities are as low-cost as possible. MWR also provides a lot of BOSS funding, Gonzalez said. — *Elizabeth M. Lorge*

# Transformation in Korea

Story by C. Todd Lopez

Transformation of the U.S. military's role in Korea will help South Korea to more effectively deal with the threat symbolized by the huge flagpole in Kijong-dong, North Korea.

**F**OR more than half a century now, since the cessation of fighting between North and South Korea, American Soldiers have taken the lead role in the stand-off between South Korea and its communist neighbors to the north.

Today, it is an American four-star general who heads both the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces, Korea, which are responsible for maintaining a defensive posture. He is ultimately responsible for the defense of the country, and has operational control over both U.S. military members there and members of the Korean military most closely involved with defending the nation against invasion from the north.



But the U.S. military is transforming its role in Korea, and those changes will especially affect the nearly 20,000 Soldiers stationed there, said Lt. Gen. Joseph Fil, 8th Army commander and chief of staff of USFK.

"It's a transformation at many levels," he said. "But first of all, it is a transformation in the command and control."

As part of the transformation, the Army will relinquish to the Republic of Korea army its leadership role in the demilitarized zone in the north.

Most importantly, the responsibility for the defense of Korea will be passed to its largest stakeholders — the South Koreans. That transfer of operational control is currently expected to take place in April 2012. In place of the combined forces command, the Koreans will stand up their own headquarters, under the ROK's joint chiefs of staff.

The United States will, in turn, stand up a Korea Command in the country to provide support.

"The Koreans will be autonomous and will be supported by our forces, not combined with them" said Fil.

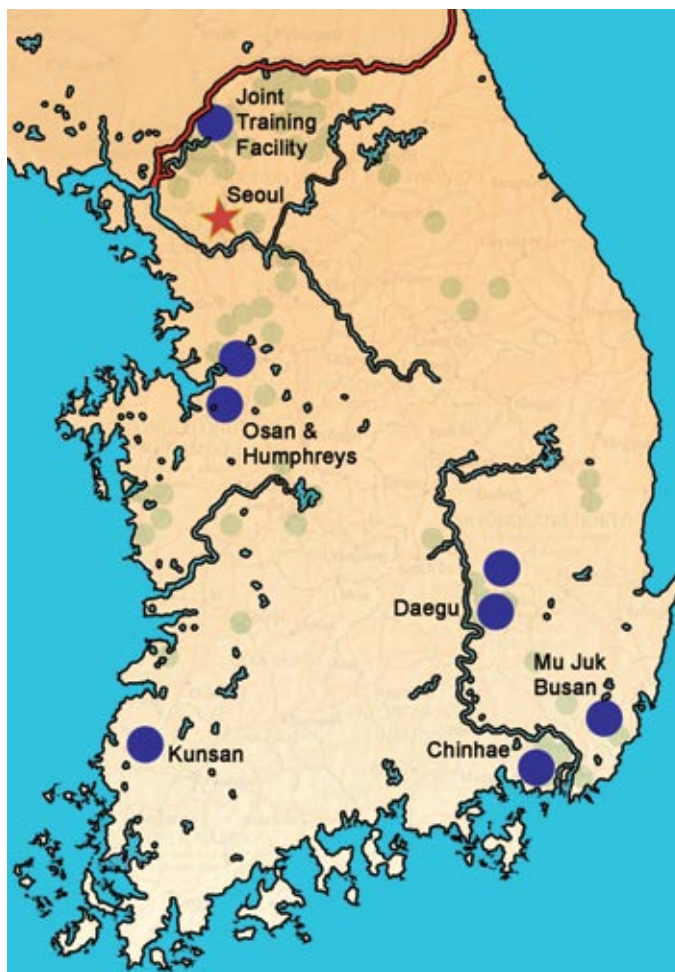
Right now, the Army is working with the Korean army to help it prepare for the change of responsibility, now just four years away. Combined U.S.-ROK military exercises will test the strength and preparedness of the ROK army. The results of those exercises will be studied, to learn where the Koreans have excelled, and where they can do better, Fil said.

"We have had a whole series of exercises to help us and them prepare

for this," Fil said. "We will see some things we like and things we don't like. And through the after-action review process, we will make changes."

Fil said the Koreans are looking forward to the change and have long been excited about taking the reins from the United States.

"They have embraced it and they want it," he said. "For 55 years now, we've actually had a combined force



In 2002, there were some 104 facilities in the Korean theater (shown in green), covering a total of 48,744 acres. The U.S. military's transformation in Korea is expected to result in a two-thirds reduction in land use. Soldiers assigned to camps like Casey and Red Cloud, and the 2nd Infantry Division, will move to larger, consolidated facilities like U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (shown in blue).

where Americans were commanding the Korean forces. They will be commanding themselves now."

The U.S. military won't leave Korea, however. Instead, it will change its footprint in the tiny country. By 2012, much of the 2nd Inf. Div., now tasked as the first line of defense



against a North Korean invasion, will move from installations like Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, about 40 miles south of Seoul.

Additionally, the United States will likely return much, if not all, of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan — in the heart of Seoul — to the Korean government.

At USAG Humphreys, construction is already underway for the move. In addition to housing operational facilities that will enable the Army to support Koreans in their defense, USAG Humphreys will also include facilities to support military families. There are new schools, child-care centers, gymnasiums, playgrounds, dining facilities and family housing.

The new infrastructure is being put in place because the Army plans on changing two things about a Soldier's assignment to Korea.

First, tour lengths will be "normalized," as they are in other locations. Instead of one year, they will be three years.

Second, instead of telling

Soldiers they must leave their families back in the States, they will be allowed to bring them along, Fil said.

"This is a hard-work tour, but it's not a hardship tour. It's a great place to be assigned. We seek to make this be the dream assignment for Soldiers," he said. **sm**

# Soldiers in Korea Get Full Spectrum

Story by C. Todd Lopez

**S**OLDIERS assigned to Korea don't just have the opportunity to live in one of the fastest growing, technologically advanced countries in the world. They also get a military assignment where Army training is second to none, and that will fully prepare them for any follow-on assignment they take.

In Korea, Soldiers must be prepared to fight a war at a moment's notice. The North Korean army has been massed above the demilitarized zone since the cessation of fighting between the United Nations and communist North Korea in 1953. At any moment the North Koreans could decide to resume that fight.

"There is a real danger, a palpable danger every day from the North Koreans," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Winzenried, the command sergeant major for U.S. Forces Korea and 8th U.S. Army. "Nobody can really say for sure that one day Kim Jong Il's not going to decide that that's the day to do it and go. So we do have to be prepared for that."

A resumption of fighting with North Korea would look more like a conventional "Cold War" kind of fight than the counterinsurgency that is happening today in Iraq. Such a fight would require Soldiers to be knowledgeable in the full spectrum

"At the Soldier level, they get the opportunity to see the big war-fight piece ..."

of operations — defensive, offensive and stability — outlined in the Army's recently released Operations Field Manual 3-0.

The offensive portion of that fight would draw on more than the counterinsurgency skills Soldiers are applying now in Iraq. The fight would include infantry operations, heavy artillery operations, tank and Bradley warfare, airborne warfare and eventually even counterinsurgency operations — so that's exactly the type of training the 2nd Infantry is doing today, Winzenried said.

"In a lot of places they can't do tank table eight or tank table 12, which is a tank or Bradley unit's big gunnery operation," he said. "In a lot of places they just don't have the capability or the time to train that way."

At the Joint Warrior Training Center in Korea, Soldiers can practice live-fire training exercises, either offensively or defensively. And because there is limited training space, Soldiers there use virtual training to create larger scenarios, allowing more Soldiers to train.







# Training



Soldiers from the Division Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, head for cover after "hot loading" a simulated wounded patient into a ROK air force Black Hawk helicopter during a joint casualty-evacuation exercise in Uijongbu.

LCpl. Ashley S. Stadel, USMC





PO3 Nancy C. diBenedetto, USN

“You can be doing a company live-fire training fight against the North Korean hordes as they come over the DMZ, while on a simulation, the battalion-level, brigade-level, or even the division-level can be fighting simultaneously, just like they would in combat,” Winzenried said. “It gives them an opportunity to train in a limited space, using all the capabilities we have. It’s very high speed.”

Exercises like Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulchi Freedom Guardian test the mettle of Soldiers in Korea. The exercises are both command-post exercises, which simulate battle, and intensive military exercises with people and tanks on the ground, and helicopters and airplanes in the air. Key Resolve and Foal Eagle test U.S. forces in Korea, as well as the Korean military’s ability to defend the southern half of the peninsula.

“That’s where we practice if North Korea invaded, what our response would be and how we would resupply and how we would bring people in, boats, ships, all of those types of things — so it’s a very big exercise,” Winzenried said. “At the Soldier level, they get the opportunity to see the big war fight piece. When you’re a private in a squad out doing patrol, you only see a very tiny piece of the big picture. When you go to one of these big exercises and you get to see the big picture of the war fight, it gives you a different perspective on what’s going on. It makes it a little more real to you.”

In Korea, Soldiers don’t fight alone, they fight a joint fight. So training and exercises involve service-members from the Seventh Air Force and the U.S. Naval Forces Korea. But American forces alone are not responsible for defending Korea. That responsibility is also shared with the ROK military.

“You have to fight with the Ko-

Cpl. Jeffrey MacDonald loads a Stryker armored vehicle with .50-caliber ammunition during Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle at the Rodriguez Range Complex.





Yu Hu Son

Frequent exercises ensure that Korea-based troops — like this Soldier from the 2nd Inf. Div.'s 2nd Bn., 9th Inf. Regt., training at the Rodriguez Range Complex — are fully prepared to repel North Korean aggression.

reans,” Wizenreid said. “You have to learn how to interact and operate with coalition partners. It’s kind of hard to simulate that in the States. But here you have to do that, so that’s another facet of the training here that really is awesome.”

In Korea, the Army trains on the entire range of warfighting skills — because Soldiers there must be ready for war. When the war in Iraq is over, all Soldiers will need to brush up on the entire range of skills the Army spells out in its operations doctrine — because the next war might require them, Wizenreid said.

“One thing we’ve always done well is that we’ve learned and fought the war we’re fighting right now, but we don’t do a good job sometimes of preparing for the next war that might come down the road,” Wizenreid said. “So this is the last place in the Army where we can train to the full spectrum of combat.”

The 2nd Inf. Div.’s Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Stall said division Soldiers are busy keeping those conventional warfare skills sharp.

“There’s not a day that goes by that a unit’s not out in the field honing its Soldiers’ skills,” he said. “Just because you’re in Korea doesn’t mean the training stops. We’re the only division that’s focused on a

full-spectrum combat mission. Other divisions are presently focused on counterinsurgency, because they are the force providers in Afghanistan and Iraq. We owe it to our bigger Army to maintain those core mission-essential requirements.”

While full-scale invasion from the north is always a very real possibility, with the U.S. military fighting alongside the ROK army, U.S. commanders are confident they already know what the outcome of such a move by North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il would be.



“If North Korea attacks, there is no question about the outcome, none at all,” said Lt. Gen. Joseph Fil, 8th Army commander and chief of staff of USFK. “This will be a victory for the Alliance, no doubt about it. And the outcome for North Korea is unquestioned.”

The readiness of American Soldiers in Korea doesn’t just act as protection against an attack from the north. It also acts as a deterrent, Fil said, because the North Koreans are well aware of America’s readiness in Korea — and that readiness comes from training.

“The presence of American forces — well trained, well led and well prepared — on the Asian mainland deters the North Koreans,” Fil said. “It also provides stability to the rest of the region, just as it has in Europe and Japan. So I think it makes a huge difference. Training is just absolutely essential to our readiness.” **sm**

An AH-64 Apache helicopter from Camp Humphreys arrives at Kunsan Air Base as part of the Key Resolve/Foal Eagle exercise.



Senior Airman Steven R. Doty, USAF





## Tennessee

Soldiers of the Illinois Army National Guard's 5th Civil Support Team carry a simulated casualty during an earthquake-response drill undertaken as part of Exercise Vigilant Guard in Memphis.

— Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Kilka









MC1 Sean Mulligan, USN



Land Warrior uses state-of-the-art technologies to digitally link Soldiers on the battlefield.

## Land Warrior

AS Land Warrior reaches its first anniversary in combat, the Army is seeking to equip an entire brigade combat team with the high-tech system, which increases mission speed and effectiveness and decreases risks to Soldiers.

Land Warrior is a modular fighting system that uses state-of-the-art computer, communications, and global-positioning technologies to digitally link Soldiers on the battlefield. The system is integrated with the Soldier's body armor and has a helmet-mounted display.

During the past year, Soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 9th Infantry Regiment, have faced the challenges of asymmetric warfare head-on with unprecedented situational awareness, Army officials said, thanks to Land Warrior. And the battalion's success has prompted others to ask for the system.

"A platoon that has Land Warrior can cover a lot more ground a lot faster," said Staff Sgt. James Young,

a squad leader with Company A.

LW provides advantages that other Soldiers do not have, said Command Sgt. Maj. Phil Pich, who recently returned from Iraq. "It gives you situational awareness, which allows you to see all friendly forces in your area of operations. It gives you maps and imagery. It also allows leaders to change graphics while on the move. And it gives us voice and text-messaging capabilities."

Soldiers wearing the LW system can easily access detailed maps, execution checklists and other mission-essential information stored by the system. The system can store more than 600 images, including photographs of targets and locations.

The Soldier views the maps and imagery through the helmet-mounted display, which is pulled down over one eye when needed. Each Soldier wearing the system is represented by an icon on the map. Using drop-down menus, team leaders and commanders can place virtual icons, or virtual

"chem lights" onto a map to identify known enemy locations or other essential information.

The system allows leaders to quickly relay information in the middle of a mission. During a recent raid in Taji, Iraq, for example, Soldiers came across a large canal. "With that obstacle, typically you'll have your entire platoon stagnant in a security hold," said Pich. "Here they were able to find a crossing point, mark it with a virtual chem light, and then continue moving right into the assault."

Pich, who has served five previous combat tours, said LW also helps prevent "fratricide" because it allows Soldiers to see their buddies' locations.

The Army has approved an operational needs statement to equip the 5th Stryker BCT, 2nd Inf. Division, with the LW system in 2009.

The Land Warrior program is managed by Project Manager Soldier Warrior, based at Fort Belvoir, Va., part of Program Executive Office Soldier, the Army organization responsible for virtually everything the Soldier wears or carries. For more information, visit **[www.peosoldier.army.mil](http://www.peosoldier.army.mil)**. — *Program Executive Office Soldier, Strategic Communications Office*



## Operation Restore Peace

“BE thankful to God and the government of Iraq that you are being offered this opportunity,” Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek told sheiks and villagers at a recent reconciliation meeting held at Forward Operating Base McHenry in Hawijah, Iraq.

The sixth meeting under Operation Restore Peace afforded a pathway toward reconciliation to combatants who have been linked to attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces.

The program has been credited — along with the Sons of Iraq program — with a more than 90-percent decrease in violent attacks against both forces and civilians in the Hawijah district of Kirkuk Province.

Since January, more than 200 former combatants in the region have reconciled.

“We came today of our own free will,” said Sheik Atta

Muhammad Hussein. “I tell my children and villagers that we need to cooperate with our government and our security forces. That is the only way our lives will improve and Iraq will prosper as a country.”

More and more Iraqis are becoming motivated to join the reconciliation program as joint targeting efforts increase between the ISF and CF, thanks to information supplied by Sons of Iraq members and local citizens.

The information obtained over a two-week period before the reconciliation program led to the capture of 13 known criminals.

“Spread the word. Tell your friends, family — everyone you know. The opportunity still exists to reconcile. But, time is running out,” said Vanek, the commander of the 10th Mountain Division’s 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment. “You either come to peace or we will force you to peace.” — *Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs Office*

## Voter Registration Month Begins

DURING this month’s Army voter-registration effort, commands will work with Soldiers, civilians and family members to ensure that everyone who wants to register and request a ballot from state election officials is able to do so.

“One of the freedoms we defend as Soldiers is the right to vote,” said Brig. Gen. Reuben Jones, the adjutant general of the Army and senior service voting representative.

“It amazes me how many people take for granted the freedom to vote,” Jones said. “Don’t be one of those who gives up the rights you have sworn to uphold and defend for the nation. Exercising your right to vote is extremely important. Every vote counts — and yours should be one of them.”

Voting-assistance officers will use the Voting Assistance Guide for 2008-2009 and the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site to assist eligible voters. Using FVAP-provided tools, VAOs can explain absentee registration and voting for each state, territory and other jurisdiction. They will also have the necessary forms, including the Federal Post Card Application for registration and absentee ballot requests, and the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots available for all potential voters, and will be able to walk voters through the steps to submit those cards and ballots.

All states and territories accept the Federal Post Card Application for voter registration and absentee balloting. Voters can request applications and ballots from their VAOs, or download them from [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

Local election officials need to receive the FPCA at least 45 days before election day, Nov. 4, to ensure ample time for processing and mailing. If a ballot has not been received within two weeks of the election, the voter should request a FWAB from his or her Unit Voting Assistance Officer. — *Carrie McLeroy*

Voting-assistance officers will use the Voting Assistance Guide and the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site to assist eligible voters.





Spc. Lonnie Fletcher and Sgt. Delaina Lynn Fletcher are stationed at Yongsan with son Lonnie. Both Soldiers say the assignment is very family friendly.

# Bringing More Families to Korea

Story by Elizabeth M. Lorge

**G**EN. B.B. Bell, former U.S. Forces Korea commander, doubled the Army's number of command-sponsored positions allowed for Soldiers who want to bring their families to Korea rather than face a long separation while serving on the peninsula. The current number of command-sponsored positions is 3,000, with the goal of making this option available to every service-member regardless of rank.

"Our hope is that it will become a three-year assignment just like Germany or Italy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wizenreid, 8th U.S. Army's chief enlisted advisor. "Our hope is that Soldiers would get orders that say 'Bring your family.'"

Because of a historical lack of such family support programs as adequate housing, medical care, education and after-school activities, USFK has limited the number of command-

sponsored slots peninsula-wide. Some areas, like Camp Casey and the rest of what is known as Area One in the north of the country, can't support any families. The few command-sponsored families 2nd Inf. Div. has are at Yongsan, in Seoul.

But all of Area One and Yongsan are scheduled to close in 2012, and in preparation for more families and the U.S. move south, the Army is building new housing, schools, and childcare and recreation facilities at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, about an hour south of Seoul, which will be the center of all Army activity in Korea.

Both the child-development center and the school at Humphreys are rapidly expanding and offer the newest facilities in Korea. Right now, Humphreys' elementary school can accommodate 255 students; after adding 7th and 8th grade classes in 2009,

it will be able to accommodate about 350, and new schools are planned. The new CDC is only partially full now and can accommodate about 300 children.

Humphreys also has a "Splish 'N Splash" water park with different water slides that as many as 500 people visit at once in the summer, and a miniature golf course. Many of the units will have their own, smaller gyms in addition to the "Super Gym," which, when completed, will be one of the largest in the Army, with more than 100,000 square feet.

Yongsan, although slated for closure, will have its schools' capacity increased by 500. The 121st Combat Support Hospital there has also recently been redone and expanded to provide as much medical support as possible to families, but sheer volume necessitates many referrals to Korean doctors via TRICARE.



Sgt. Delaina Lynn Fletcher, who married Spc. Lonnie Fletcher while in Korea and recently had a baby, said she's taken advantage of a number of classes in childbirth and parenting offered by Army Community Services in Seoul. The assignment, she said, is very family friendly. She and her husband don't have jobs that require a lot of time in the field, so they can focus on each other and their baby.

"In fact, the whole country is perfect for families," said Lt. Col. Thomas Whitaker, director of Yongsan's Good Neighbor Program.

"I have four daughters, and they have Korean friends," he said. "Seoul is one of the largest cities in the world, but when they go out with their friends, I don't need to worry. I know my kids are safe. People look out for children."

The lack of sponsorship hasn't stopped families from coming on their own. The 2nd Inf. Div. alone has about 900 noncommand-sponsored families. Many Soldiers may return from a deployment, be assigned to Korea for a year, only to return to the States and a unit that's about to deploy again. Many families don't want to spend that much time apart.

Like many spouses, Dyeisha Henry, a wife at Camp Casey, discovered that the 13-hour time difference and approximately 7,000 miles between Korea and the States was just too much. She recently joined her husband at their own expense.

"We were separated a year. They sent him over here, and it was hard moving back and forth," she said. "I'd just had a child. It's too far a distance to maintain a marriage and raise a child. I decided to pack up everything and move here."

Although leaders are concerned about the additional strain these families are placing on Army resources in Korea, especially in terms of medical support, they say they would never deny any Army family access to assistance, to morale, welfare and recreation programs, or to the post exchange or commissary.

"We're never going to do that,"



A family plays miniature golf at the recreation center at Yongsan Garrison. Installations in Korea offer a range of morale, welfare and recreation activities for families.

Spc. Brandon Moreno



said Wizenreid. "My commander would never allow that to happen."

More command-sponsored slots, he said, will help the Army allocate more resources.

One thing noncommand-sponsored Soldiers and their families don't have access to is on-post housing, which is in short supply for accompanied Soldiers as well. Installation housing offices can help Soldiers find off-post housing. Soldiers' housing allowances are also based on where their families are located, so even noncommand-sponsored families in Korea receive the higher outside-the-continental-United States rate.

All new spouses at 2nd Inf. Div. installations are required to attend a newcomer's orientation at which they find out about available programs, including the Pear Blossom Cottage, unique to Area One.

Founded at Camp Casey in 1989, the cottage gives noncommand-sponsored spouses a place to relax and socialize and where their children can play. It even comes equipped with kitchen and laundry facilities.

"The cottage also allows non-American spouses to experience an American-style environment," said Denise James, Camp Red Cloud's morale, welfare and recreation director.

Because many of the spouses are either Korean or from a third country, Family Advocacy Program staffers

offer classes at the cottage on visa applications, employment and managing finances in the States. Marriage, parenting and cooking classes are also offered at the Red Cloud location.

CRC cottage manager Natalia Levchenko said she sees an average of 200 people a month. She holds baby showers, birthday parties and farewells for the wives who visit the cottage. There are also activities and outings that resonate well with spouses.

"You can come here and meet other Army wives and let the kids mingle with other American kids, and it's better than being stuck in the house all the time," Henry said. "It's a great opportunity. They have all types of trips that the wives and kids can go on during the day."

Some officials credit families like the Henrys with paving the way for more command-sponsored slots.

Soldiers are "pushing us to push change. It's really kind of exciting to watch," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Stall, the 2nd Inf. Div.'s senior enlisted advisor. Soldiers "can pat themselves on the back and know that by bringing family members over here they're helping to make things right for those who follow in their footsteps."

Those additional accompanied slots and family programs, Soldiers said, are a huge boost to morale.

"The military's pretty much about motivation, and if the Soldiers don't have good quality of life, it's going to be hard for leaders to motivate them to carry out the mission. But I think that with a better quality of life they'll feel a lot better about themselves. They'll feel a lot better about their units, and things will improve all around. It will show," said Spc. Lonnie Fletcher. **sm**

The Korean

# Housing Boom !

Story by Elizabeth M. Lorge

**T**HE Quonset hut, once the symbol of a hardship tour and living quarters for Soldiers of all ranks during the Korean War and Vietnam era, is slowly dying in Korea as Army officials revolutionize life on the peninsula, building some of the most modern, well-maintained facilities in the Army.

While the huts still dot the landscape, especially north of Seoul on installations like Camp Red Cloud and Camp Casey, they are mostly quaint reminders of another time, torn down whenever possible or closed up, or used as office or storage space. A few sergeants major may live in them by choice, said Don Needham, Camp Red Cloud's director of public works, but they are the exception.

To prepare for thousands of additional Soldiers and families from installations further north — the numbers are expected to rise from the 10,000 currently at the post to 45,000 by 2012—officials at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys have begun an \$8.2 billion-dollar construction project, building high-rises full of single-Soldier barracks, bachelor officers' quarters and family apartments, said Humphreys Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Kim.

At the same time, housing remains a priority for bases set for closure, such as camps Red Cloud and Casey, and USAG Yongsan, the current U.S. Forces,

Korea, and 8th U.S. Army hub in Seoul, according to Army officials.

"It's the right thing to do," said 8th Army Commander Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Fil. "This alliance is strong and enduring. It will last through the 21st century and beyond. It is time to make this permanent instead of doing it one year at a time."

Although non-enduring installations don't receive money for new construction, officials are renovating housing to the same standard seen at Humphreys and in the States, said Needham. Gang, or shared bathrooms, are also a thing of the past.

Each enlisted Soldier arriving in Korea can expect what officials call the "two-plus-two" standard: one roommate and a private bathroom attached to their room. The furniture can also be arranged to divide the room into two separate areas, giving each Soldier as much privacy as possible, an important factor for many. The ultimate goal, officials said, is a private room for every Soldier.

"This is way better than the barracks I had in basic and AIT. I like the privacy, and sharing the bathroom with only one other person instead of six," said Humphreys resident Pfc. James Lintz of the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion.

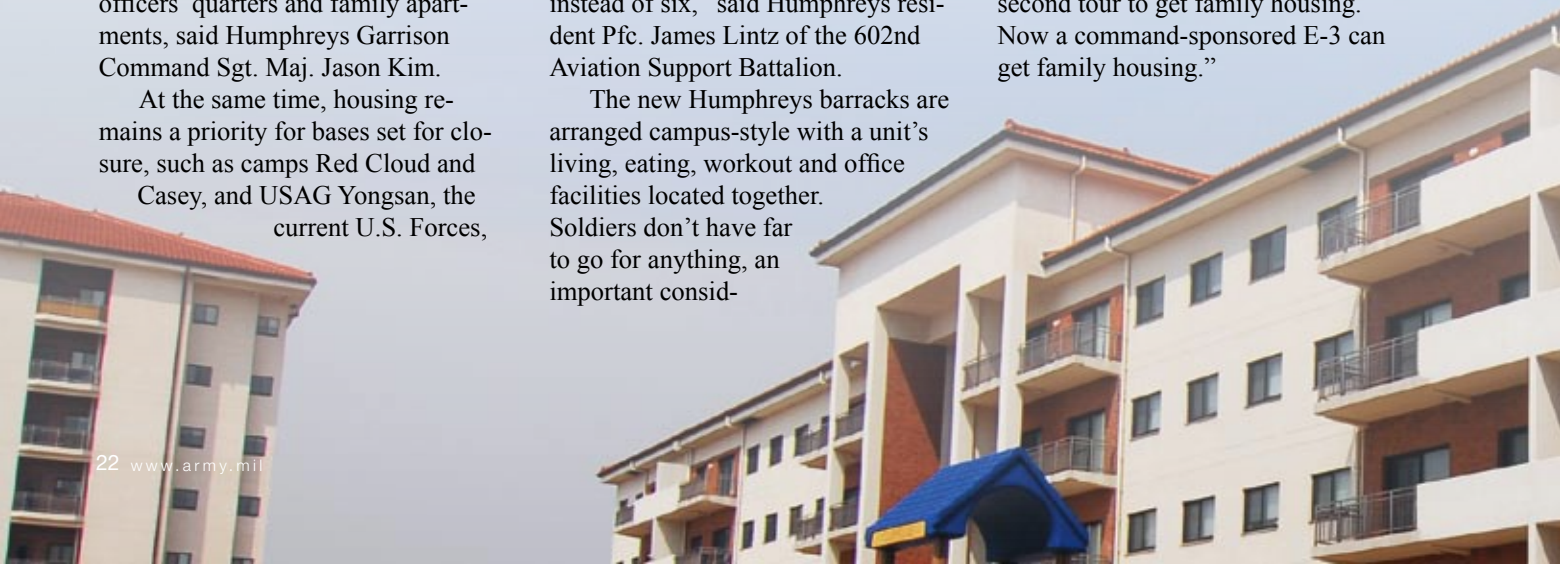
The new Humphreys barracks are arranged campus-style with a unit's living, eating, workout and office facilities located together. Soldiers don't have far to go for anything, an important consid-

eration when Soldiers aren't authorized personal vehicles.

Family housing, however, remains at a premium and is among the reasons officials say command-sponsored slots are limited. But the upcoming move to Humphreys and former USFK commander Gen. B.B. Bell's decision to double the number of command-sponsored slots has emphasized the renewed importance leaders are putting on quality of life.

Joan Bradford, the housing director at Humphreys, said the Army plans to build 36 12-to-15-story apartment buildings that will house almost 3,000 families. The sizes will vary, but the apartments will be larger than the standard in the States or Europe. The model has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and almost 2,000 square feet, with space for a living area, dining area and a den. Three of the towers have already been completed, are surrounded by playgrounds and are within walking distance of the post elementary school.

"This is excellent housing," Bradford said. "I've seen major improvements over the years. You used to have to be at least an E-4 on your second tour to get family housing. Now a command-sponsored E-3 can get family housing."





The units are receiving rave reviews from families, who like the convenience and space.

"We've been in 12 years and that's the best house we've lived in," said veteran Army wife Kelly Resnick, who lives with her children at Humphreys while her husband serves at a smaller camp that can't support families. "It's new, and its close to everything. It's well-kept. It's clean. It's totally supplied with furniture."

Their apartment, she said, is even more impressive compared with their housing at Humphreys 11 years ago, when the Resnicks only had a single room and bathroom. To cook, she remembered, she had to use the communal kitchen located downstairs from their room.

Installation housing offices also help families who can't get on-post housing find off-post houses and apartments that meet American standards, but Staff Sgt. Jennifer Tao-Metcalf and Sgt. Brandon Metcalf said on-post housing is much better. They met, married and had a son in Korea, and moved into the Humphreys housing as soon it was available.

"The bills. We had expensive gas bills," Tao-Metcalf remembered. "And then they gave us a two-story townhouse that used to be really hot and humid in the summer.

"Here it is more convenient, you're on post. The PX is right here. The child-development center is right there, and your work is right there."

Her husband agreed, and added that the neighborhood is great for a young family.

"There's a nice playground area for our son. I've never seen a playground that clean," said Metcalf.

While on-post housing is especially limited on Yongsan, due to the installation's location in the center of Seoul, officials there are intent on improving family housing as well, even for large families. The Yongsan housing office has converted four duplexes into four six-bedroom, 4,000-square-foot, single-family homes, said housing chief Carol Jones. They also turned a quad into two duplexes.

"The space is really more than we actually need," said Command. Sgt. Maj. Timothy Fitzgerald, who has seven children and had been living in a four-bedroom duplex. "We've actually sealed off one of the bathrooms because four bathrooms are too much. For a large family, it's perfect.

"I'd always heard bad things about Korea, and I think people say that so you get back to the States and they can come back over and con-



tinue to experience the assignment of choice," he said. "We really, really like it a lot. I've been on a lot of installations and Yongsan is one of our best assignments yet."

And as 2012 and the move south approach and construction at Humphreys nears completion with new schools, a 40,000 square-foot education center and a new food, beverage and entertainment complex, officials expect housing and quality of life to get even better. "This is going to be very good," said Bradford.

"I would love to come back in a few years," Resnick said, adding that she expected family programs to become more organized, and exposing her children to another culture is priceless. **sm**



Elizabeth M. Lorge (both)

The new family apartments at USAG Humphreys are almost 2,000 square feet.

# LIFE on the DMZ



Story by **C. Todd Lopez**    Photos by **Edward Johnson**

**S**EOUL, South Korea, is a huge city — some 10.3 million Koreans live there amongst modern skyscrapers, ancient temples, endless fields of high-rise apartment complexes and an expansive network of subways and trains.

Travel north out of the city, along the Han river, however, and the landscape changes as skyscrapers are replaced by farmland. There are new elements there as well: rolls of concertina wire and guard posts stretched along the Han, warning signs, and “bridges” over the highway filled with rocks and explosives -- when blown they provide roadblocks to any advance toward Seoul from the north.

Those changes in landscape occur as you move closer to the demilitarized zone, and Joint Security Area, just 35 miles north of Seoul. The

DMZ is the heavily guarded strip of land, about 2.5 miles wide and 150 miles long, that divides North Korea from South Korea. The JSA is a small parcel of land within the DMZ, located near Panmunjeom village, where leaders of both countries can meet on neutral ground.

On the South Korean side of the JSA, the United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area Battalion, provides security. The battalion is commanded by a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and is manned by some 650 troops — about 90 percent South Korean and 10 percent U.S. military.

“The UNCSB-JSA is a unique unit,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Ciarrocchi, senior enlisted advisor for the UNCSB-JSA. “The UNCSB-JSA is a combination battalion, it’s

the only one of its kind. This is a reflection of the ongoing transformation of the forces in South Korea. All of the Soldiers assigned to the unit are handpicked, and they all go through an extensive evaluation process before assignment to the JSA.”

The UNCSB-JSA’s mission is also unique. The battalion is responsible for securing the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters area, protecting United Nations Command and Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission personnel, and for protecting all visitors to the JSA. The battalion also protects the residents of the nearby farming village of Tae Song Dong, which lies inside the DMZ.

“The battalion is responsible for implementing civil affairs and security within this unique village,”





(Left) ROK Soldiers stand guard inside the Military Armistice Commission building in the JSA. (Above) The “Bridge of No Return” crosses the military demarcation line within the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. The bridge was often used for prisoner exchanges between the two countries.

Ciarrocchi said. “The residents there live under some very severe restrictions: they must be in the village by nightfall, and inside their homes with the doors and windows secure by midnight. We carry out our responsibilities through a security platoon that guards the village 24 hours a day. During the day, they provide security for the farmers while they work in the fields. At night they guard the village itself while the residents sleep.”

Ciarrocchi said the Soldiers assigned to the UNCSB-JSA come face-to-face with the North Korean military on a daily basis, either inside the JSA or while on patrol along the DMZ. And while hostilities between the two nations have been on hold since an armistice was signed in 1953, the two countries are still, technically, at war. The kind of tension that reality creates means that Soldiers working within the JSA and the DMZ must always be on guard.

“You can’t get complacent, you have to be ready, you have to maintain a readiness posture every day and prepare for anything that might occur,” Ciarrocchi said. “Anything that has happened in the JSA, in our sector or anywhere along the DMZ, has been spontaneous.”

Events do happen at the DMZ. In 1976, two U.S. Army officers, Maj. Arthur Bonifas and 1st Lt. Mark Bar-

rett, were involved in a tree-trimming operation near the military demarcation line that runs down the center of the DMZ. The two were killed by North Koreans after refusing to comply with demands by the North Koreans to stop trimming the trees.

Just eight years later, in 1984, a citizen of the Soviet Union was inside the JSA. He attempted to cross the MDL from North Korea to South Korea — to defect. In the process of trying to stop him, North Korean troops killed an American Soldier.

Because UNCSB-JSA Soldiers and North Korean military forces routinely come face to face, there are rules to prevent incidents like these from happening again, said Ciarrocchi.

An incident in the JSA involves somebody who crosses the MDL without authorization from either the north or south, he said. “But we have protocols and rules of engagement to address that. We take contingencies into consideration as we do

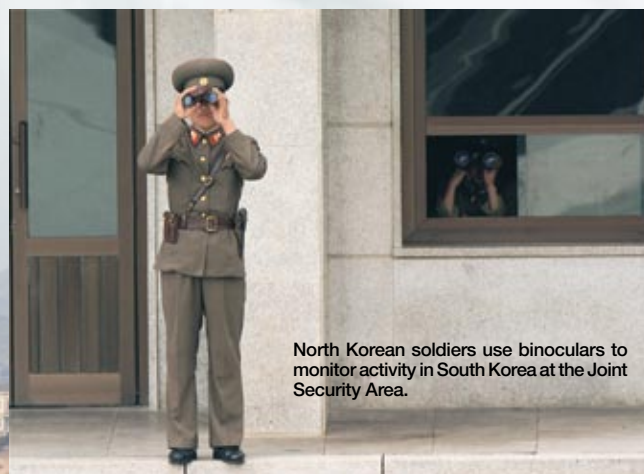


our mission planning. Should an incident arise within our sector, we want to end it favorably, and deescalate the situation if at all possible.”

Most days in the JSA and on the DMZ are not so eventful, and Soldiers of the UNCSB-JSA dedicate time to training to ensure they’re ready in case something does happen. They do physical training — including combatives and tae kwon do — six days per week. The battalion also trains in marksmanship, and focuses on platoon- and squad-level battle drills and live-fire exercises.

American Soldiers are assigned to the UNCSB-JSA in year-long rotations, and Ciarrocchi said he believes the opportunity allows Soldiers to leave Korea with a real sense of what freedom is all about.

“If you were to come up here to the DMZ and stand here at night, you would see the darkness on the North Korean side, and then the lights from the south from Seoul,” he said. “When you look north you see how austere and undeveloped North Korea is. Soldiers see that and get an appreciation for why they are here and serving in Korea.” **sm**



North Korean soldiers use binoculars to monitor activity in South Korea at the Joint Security Area.



# The Frontline Network

Story by Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenci



**T**HE official birth of the American Forces Network – Korea occurred in 1945, but the event that cemented the unit's place in history took place on Oct. 4, 1950, at the height of the Korean War that had begun some four months earlier.

At 12:41 p.m. that day, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur used the network's radio to demand that North Korean Gen. Kim Il Sung lay down his arms and surrender his armies. The communists were in full retreat to the north at that time.

After the signing of the cease-fire agreement in 1953, the American Forces Korea Network — as it was then designated — settled into fixed locations in 1954, five of which are still active today in Seoul, Osan, Kunsan, Daegu and Camp Casey.

Although its use as a tool to assist in the cease-fire agreement is a source of pride for the unit, another source of pride is the fact that AFN-Korea has been active on the peninsula seven years longer than has the official U.S.

Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Brenci is the AFN-K command sergeant major.

Broadcast NCO Sgt. First Class Pete Mayes works his "magic" as the morning radio disc jockey at the headquarters in Yongsan.



TV production specialist Spc. Heather Krause shoots the newscast from the network's contingency studio at AFN-Daegu.

All photos courtesy of AFN-Korea





Air Force Staff Sgt. Rachael Herrmann, a broadcast producer, wears NBC protective equipment while providing music over the airwaves to Osan Air Base service members during an exercise.



Forces Korea command.

Known as the “Frontline Network,” AFN-K is now made up of more than 120 Army, Air Force and Navy servicemembers and civilians, all of whom are dedicated to bringing the latest in quality radio and television programming, news, entertainment and command information to the thousands of military personnel, family members and civilians serving in the Republic of Korea.

Today, AFN-K continues its excellent record through a series of sweeping changes to its programming, from live 12-hour radio shows to live broadcasts of its nightly news and format changes. It has also expanded its reach to a worldwide audience via the popular Internet site YouTube.

“At AFN-Korea we are doing a much better job providing command information in ways people want — downloadable video, shorter news segments, videos on YouTube, etc. With our ‘AFN the Eagle’ FM

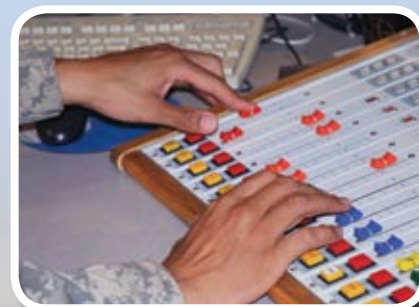
service, we have also really improved the sound and professional feel of our radio,” said Lt. Col. Michael T. Lawhorn, the 26th commander of AFN-K.

In addition to providing entertainment, AFN-K helps its audience advertise their organizations, people, events or important messages. Through AFN-K, messages are broadcast not only within the Republic of Korea, but to the entire world.

AFN-K can be found on radio and TV as well as the Web. Radio listeners can tune in to “Eagle FM” and “Thunder AM” in different areas for chart-topping hits, news and command information. AFN-K is also on the Internet at [www.afnkorea.net](http://www.afnkorea.net).

AFN-K is scheduled to move south to Camp Humphreys some time around 2012. However, the network is, and always will be, dedicated to providing quality command information and entertainment to the outstanding men and women of U.S. Forces Korea. **sm**

Public affairs broadcaster Spc. Richard Slemaker reads from the teleprompter as he anchors the newscast from the contingency studio at Daegu.



# Farewell General



## Interviewed by Alison Bettencourt

*GEN. Richard A. Cody, the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army, retires this month after a distinguished 36-year career. A master aviator who saw combat duty in the Persian Gulf, Cody leaves a legacy of leadership, advocacy for Soldiers and lifelong service to the nation.*

**You entered West Point during the Vietnam War. What made you want to join the Army during such an unpopular war? Did your family support your decision?**

**Cody:** I was 17 in the summer of 1968. I had a lot of friends who were being drafted, and like everyone, I had been watching the war on TV. Especially the images of the helicopters — the 1st Cavalry Division and 101st Airborne Div. pilots. I just

knew I wanted to be an officer and a Cobra pilot.

My parents were concerned about Vietnam. They realized I could be going to combat, but my Dad wanted me to go to West Point. He understood.

**It seems the Vietnam War really had an impact in shaping the cadet corps.**

**Cody:** At Thayer Hall they put a plaque up every Friday any time a graduate died in combat. You'd see class of 1966 and 1967, guys that came before us. But it really hit me when George Bass got killed in Vietnam. He was class of 1969 — an upperclassman when I arrived. I was in his squad as a plebe. He was bigger than life to me. That's when it really hit me — I saw his name go up on that

wall and ...well, it really hit me.

But the quality of the instructors was very good — Buddy Bucha, a Medal of Honor recipient from the 101st, was there then. Sy Bunting, a Rhodes Scholar, taught history. They were mavericks. We had guys like that who would be honest, and open a dialogue and talk about what was going right and wrong in Vietnam and in the Army.

**You have said that this Army is not broken, that you joined a broken Army. What kind of Army did you graduate into?**

**Cody:** We did not have the redeployment process we have today. There were no mental-health assessments being done, absolutely no attention being



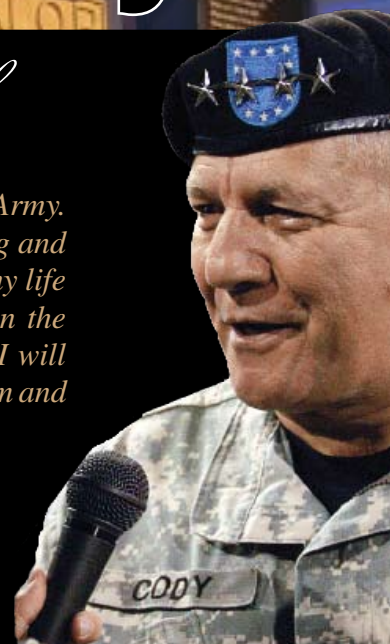
# Richard A. Cody

## *Army Vice Chief of Staff*



*"This Army won't skip a beat on the day I retire. That's a good Army. That means there's good leadership, that the institution is strong and will persevere. I will take this uniform off, and I will live the Army life through my sons and nephews. There will still be five Codys in the Army. And I will think about and pray for Soldiers every day. I will absolutely continue to do what I can to make things better for them and their families no matter what I do after the uniform comes off."*

*General Richard A. Cody became the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 24, 2004*



paid to families or reintegration. We were experiencing some serious race-relation problems. There were race riots on post — we even had a group of Soldiers take over an entire quad for two or three days. We had a drug problem, mostly marijuana, but other drugs. As a young platoon leader, you had to carry a firearm during staff duty and any time you went into the barracks.

The years 1973-1974 were some really tough years, especially from a lieutenant or young captain's perspective.

**Did those who stayed believe we could be a better Army?**

**Cody:** Even though the Army was struggling, you saw glimmers of good leadership.

When the Army is stressed, good leadership always holds it together. Always. Tough, charismatic, engaged, fearless leadership will hold an organization together. That's what I learned as a lieutenant. That's what made me stay.

I'm seeing the same thing today. That's how we get better. That's why we're the best. I can remember hearing about the All-Volunteer Force concept and believed it was going to transform us.

Those of us who stayed the course and have watched the transformation of this force and had the privilege to be part of it, have been amazed. Not any one person can take credit, it was done collectively.

We wanted our Army to be better every day, and we worked on it together.

**There was a tendency then to be "zero defect" as the Army was transforming. Some say we could be headed in the same direction. Do you think there are any comparisons?**

**Cody:** We have to be a learning institution. We can't be risk adverse. We have to be disciplined, responsible, and accountable. But, at each level we have to have the maturity and courage to look at something that didn't go right, make corrections in a positive and constructive way, and be able to underwrite honest mistakes. We are dealing in a stressful combat environment, at an incredible OPTEMPO and with constant media attention. Mistakes will be made, but as long as they don't violate legal, moral and ethical standards, we need to continue





Born in Vermont, Cody entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1968 and graduated in 1972.

to invest and not be “zero defect.” We ask Soldiers to be brave on the battlefield; we need to exact that from senior leaders, too. Not being courageous, not exhibiting personal courage to our subordinates and superiors, that doesn’t make you better as an Army.

**What gives you courage as a leader? How do you balance the ego it takes to be a leader, to make the tough decisions, but still have the humility you do with Soldiers?**

**Cody:** You have to have confidence in what is right. I don’t know if that’s ego or not, I’m not a philosopher. I know that as a leader, you have to have love of soldiering and Soldiers first and above all. Second, you have got to have confidence. None of the decisions a leader makes should be easy. If I think it’s the right decision, it’s OK if

it’s unpopular and people don’t like me. This isn’t a popularity contest.

Respect for this institution is very important, and sometimes has to supersede personal likes and dislikes. We are a team. If you allow ego to reign, emotion will trump true leadership. You’ll have a clash of egos instead of a discussion about skill sets, capabilities and what is good for the organization. Some of this is cerebral, but hell, a lot of it is about the heart. It’s about putting yourself out there, warts and all, as a rallying point for the troops.

Soldiers don’t care if you’re smart; they give you the benefit of the doubt as a leader. They want to know if you can tell a joke that’s actually funny; if the job you have now is more important than the one you might have tomorrow; and that you love them, the unit and this Army.

**Why do you think Soldiers are staying with the Army today, despite the stresses we have?**

**Cody:** First of all, this is absolutely the best Army we’ve ever had. There is not a time in my 36-year career when we have been better.

But we have lost far too many captains and mid-level NCOs who would have stayed because they love the Army, but because we could not grow fast enough and the demands on our force are outstripping supply, had to choose between the Army they love and the families they love. They should not have to make that choice, and that’s why we’re working so hard to grow this Army, get it in balance, get to the 1:2 and 1:5 deployment ratios.

We stay because we have a sense of duty, honor and country that even





During his tenure, Cody made a point of talking with Soldiers whenever and wherever possible.

when you get tired, when you lose friends or are frustrated by bureaucracy, can't be compromised. We stay because the Army isn't a job, it is a larger family that your own family is defined and sustained by. We stay because we look out there and say, if not me, who?

**I know you are going to miss the Army. Do you think the Army will miss you?**

**Cody:** This Army won't skip a beat on the day I retire. That's a good Army.

A very distinguished cheerleader rallied fans during the 2007 Army-Navy game.



Over the course of his career the retiring vice chief of staff commanded a variety of units, including the 101st Abn. Div.

That means there's good leadership, that the institution is strong and will persevere. I will take this uniform off, and I will live the Army life through my sons and nephews. There will still be five Codys in the Army.

And I will continue to ask myself, like I do every day on my way home as I make that turn into Fort Myer and am greeted by the white headstones of Arlington:

"Am I doing everything I possibly can to support our Soldiers serving today?"

"Am I showing the same moral

courage, the same bravery in my job that I saw every day in the eyes of our Soldiers?"

"Am I living my life as an American to be worthy of their sacrifice?" **sm**



Cody's sons, Clint and Tyler, continue the family's Army tradition.

Cody and his wife, Vicki, have long emphasized the importance of strong family bonds in enhancing Soldiers' quality of life.





# Quilt Donor

**J**EAN Wright, an Army Developmental Test Command employee at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., has been an enthusiastic quilt maker for about 25 years. She recently gave two of her creations to young Soldiers recuperating from amputations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

After learning that former DTC Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching regularly visited wounded Soldiers at WRAMC, Wright asked him to take one of her quilts and present it to one of the Soldiers there. By the time Fritzsching was ready to make the trip, Wright had finished another painstakingly stitched quilt, so he gave that one to another Soldier.

The idea for the gifts occurred to Wright in 2006 after she met Ralph Ross, a retired master sergeant, who lost an arm because of injuries he sustained in the ill-fated U.S. military operation in Somalia in 1993.

Wright struck up a conversation with Ross at an APG store. Afterward, she realized she should have gotten the Soldier's name and phone number so she could give him a quilt. When she bumped into him again, this time at the commissary, she got his contact information and presented him with the quilt a week later.

Ross, an employee at APG's Kirk Army Health Clinic, called the gift "amazing."

"She touched my heart with that," he said. "I have that quilt on the foot of my bed. It is a quality quilt, something that would probably cost \$300 or \$400 if you bought it."

Wright got another opportunity to donate one of her quilts when she saw a TV broadcast featuring the sister and grandmother of Jonathon Harris,



A quilter for more than 25 years, Jean Wright donates her work to injured, wounded and ill Soldiers.

another wounded Soldier, who were interviewed about his injuries.

Wright located Harris' uncle in the York, Pa., and called him to track down his nephew.

"I explained my 'quilt mission' to the uncle, and he was happy to take it to WRAMC," Wright said. "One evening about two weeks later, Harris called from the hospital to thank me. He was scheduled to go into surgery the next morning and have more of his right leg removed, but he was in very good spirits."

Wright said she has completed about 75 quilts since taking up the hobby in the early 1980s. She spends a great deal of time gathering materials and sewing patterns together, well before she stitches them onto the batting and does the finishing work. She hand stitches everything, rather than using a sewing machine.

It's a laborious process, but something she thoroughly enjoys. Some of the patterns she creates are complex, and it can take hundreds of hours to

finish a quilt, she said. Despite all that, she called quilting easy, largely because she has had so many years of practice.

"I try to piece the patterns together in the summertime, so then I've got them all lined up," Wright said. "Once I can actually start quilting, it takes about two months to complete a quilt."

She keeps track of all of her quilts by photographing them and putting the images in scrapbooks, and keeps track of who she gives them to.

"I wish I had more time, but I occasionally have to run a vacuum cleaner, cook a meal or wash clothes," she said.

"I wish there was more I could do for the Soldiers," she added. "I feel bad about some of the Soldiers who are injured, are undergoing rehabilitation and perhaps don't have any friends or family members nearby.

"Those Soldiers have done so much. I think anything that anyone can do for them is very well worth it," she said. **sm**

Mike Cast works for the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.





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